

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MASERU 01581 220957Z
ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CPR-01 SSC-01 PER-01 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02
SS-15 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06
PRS-01 /053 W

----- 090639 /12

R 220655Z DEC 76
FM AMEMBASSY MASERU
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6550
AMEMBASSY GABORONE
INFO AMEMBASSY MBABANE

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PDIP, PFOR, LT, US
SUBJECT: PROPOSED AMBASSADORIAL REMARKS FOR PRESENTATION OF
CREDENTIAL CEREMONY

REF: MASERU 1580

HEREIN ARE THE EMBASSY'S PROPOSED REMARKS FOR THE PRESENTATION
OF CREDENTIALS OF AMBASSADOR NORLAND TO KING MOSHOESHOE.
PRESENTATION WILL BE, AT THE AMBASSADOR'S DISCRETION, ON EITHER
JANUARY 6 OR 13.

QTE YOUR MAJESTY, IT IS BOTH A PRIVILEGE AND A GREAT HONOR TO HAVE
THE OPPORTUNITY TO PRESENT TO YOU THE LETTERS OF CREDENCE FROM
PRESIDENT FORD ACCREDITING ME AS THE AMERICAN AMBASSADOR TO THE
KINGDOM OF LESOTHO AND THE LETTERS OF RECALL OF MY PREDECESSOR,
AMBASSADOR DAVID B. BOLEN.

QTE YOUR MAJESTY, I BRING WITH MY MISSION NOT ONLY THE MOST
CORDIAL GREETINGS OF THE GOVERNMENT AND PEOPLE OF THE UNITED STATES
OF AMERICA, BUT ALSO THE SANGUINE BELIEF THAT THE TRADITIONALLY
GOOD RELATIONS BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES CAN BE BROADENED AND
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STRENGTHENED IN THE YEARS TO COME.

QTE THE PAST YEAR WAS INDEED AN HISTORIC ONE WHICH, IN ADDITION
TO SEEING AMERICA CELEBRATE ITS 200TH ANNIVERSARY OF INDEPENDENCE,
SAW LESOTHO ACHIEVE ITS FIRST DECADE OF INDEPENDENCE. WE AMERICANS
HAVE WATCHED THROUGH THE YEARS, WITH DEEP RESPECT AND ADMIRATION,

THE VALIANT EFFORTS OF YOU, YOUR GOVERNMENT AND THE PEOPLE OF LESOTHO TO DEVELOP YOUR COUNTRY AND RAISE THE STANDARD OF LIVING OF ALL BASOTHO. WE HAVE ALSO NOTED AND WE COMMEND LESOTHO'S PROGRESS IN ACHIEVING A COURAGEOUS AND INDEPENDENT ROLE IN AFRICA AND THE WORLD. THE UNITED STATES IS PROUD TO HAVE BEEN ASSOCIATED, TO THE EXTENT IT HAS BEEN ABLE, WITH THESE AUSPICIOUS DEVELOPMENTS.

QTE 1976, HOWEVER, ALSO WITNESSED, AS YOUR MAJESTY IS WELL AWARE, INCREASING STRIFE AND DEMAND FOR CHANGE IN SOUTHERN AFRICA. ON THIS OCCASION I WOULD LIKE TO RECONFIRM MY GOVERNMENT'S COMMITMENT TO SEARCH, TOGETHER WITH CONCERNED AFRICAN LEADERS, FOR AN EQUITABLE AND PEACEFUL SOLUTION TO THE PROBLEMS WHICH BESET SOUTHERN AFRICA. I AM FULLY COGNIZANT OF LESOTHO'S LONG EXPERIENCE AND VITAL CONCERN WITH THESE ISSUES AND DURING MY MISSION HERE IT IS MY DESIRE, IN THE SPIRIT OF FREE AND OPEN EXCHANGE, TO ELICIT THE THOUGHTS AND FEELINGS OF YOUR MAJESTY'S GOVERNMENT ON THESE AND OTHER ISSUES OF MUTUAL INTEREST AND CONCERN.

QTE IN CLOSING, YOUR MAJESTY, I AM VERY GRATEFUL FOR THE CORDIAL WELCOME YOU AND YOUR PEOPLE HAVE ALREADY EXTENDED ME. I AM NEW TO LESOTHO AND HAVE MUCH TO LEARN. HOWEVER, I AM LOOKING FORWARD WITH ANTICIPATION TO GAINING FIRST-HAND KNOWLEDGE OF THE PHYSICAL, HISTORICAL AND SPIRITUAL ASPECTS OF YOUR BEAUTIFUL COUNTRY AND ITS PROUD PEOPLE. I AM CONFIDENT THAT, AS TIME PASSES, AND TIES OF FRIENDSHIP AND RESPECT WHICH BIND OUR TWO COUNTRIES TOGETHER WILL GROW EVEN STRONGER. END QTE.

STOKES

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CREDENTIALS PRESENTATION, SPEECHES, CEREMONIAL MESSAGES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 22 DEC 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: coburnhl
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976MASERU01581
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760469-0567
From: MASERU
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19761221/aaaaarpv.tel
Line Count: 88
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 MASERU 1580
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: coburnhl
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 06 JUL 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <06 JUL 2004 by ElyME>; APPROVED <18 OCT 2004 by coburnhl>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PROPOSED AMBASSADORIAL REMARKS FOR PRESENTATION OF CREDENTIAL CEREMONY
TAGS: PDIP, PFOR, LT, US, (MOSHOESHOE II, KING), (NORLAND, DONALD B)
To: STATE GABORONE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006